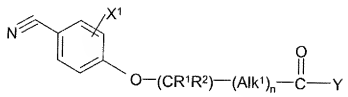
In the Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A compound of the formula:



in which;

a) X^1 is represented by cyano, halogen or haloalkyl,

b) one of R^1 or R^2 is represented by C_1-C_6 alkyl which may be optionally substituted, and the other of R^1 or R^2 is represented by hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl which may be optionally substituted,

c) Alk^1 is represented by a C_1-C_2 linear alkylene group, in which up to two hydrogen atoms are optionally replaced by a substituent selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_6 alkyl optionally substituted, halogen, hydroxy, thiol, and cyano,

d) n is represented by the integer 0 or 1,

e) Y is represented by NX^2X^3 ~~or O-X^3~~,

f) X^2 is represented by hydrogen or (C_1-C_6) alkyl optionally substituted, and,

g) X^3 is represented by

~~i. hydrogen,~~

~~ii. (C_1-C_{12}) alkyl, optionally substituted,~~

~~iii. (C_2-C_{12}) alkenyl, optionally substituted,~~

~~iv. (C_2-C_{12}) alkynyl, optionally substituted,~~

~~v. (C_3-C_{10}) cycloalkyl, optionally substituted,~~

~~vi. (C_3-C_{10}) cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6) alkyl, in which the alkyl and cycloalkyl moieties may each be optionally substituted,~~

~~vii.~~ i. ~~(C_6-C_{10}) aryl, optionally substituted,~~

viii.ii. $(C_6\text{-}C_{10})$aryl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, in which the alkyl and aryl moieties may each be optionally substituted,

iii. $-(CH_2)-(Alk^2)_q-C(O)R^3$, in which Alk^2 is represented by a $(C_1\text{-}C_8)$ linear alkylene group, in which up to eight hydrogen atoms may optionally be replaced by a substituent, selected from the group consisting of $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$ alkyl optionally substituted, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$ alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy, thiol, cyano, and NR^8R^9 in which R^8 and R^9 are each independently represented by hydrogen or $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$ alkyl, q is the integer 0 or 1, R^3 is represented by hydrogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_{12})$alkyl, $(C_6\text{-}C_{10})$aryl, or $(C_6\text{-}C_{10})$aryl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, in which the alkyl and aryl moieties may each be optionally substituted,

iv. $-(CH_2)-(Alk^2)_q-C(O)-O-R^4$, in which Alk^2 and q are as defined above, and R^4 is represented by hydrogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_{12})$alkyl, $(C_6\text{-}C_{10})$aryl, or $(C_6\text{-}C_{10})$aryl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, in which the alkyl and aryl moieties may be optionally substituted,

v. $-(CH_2)-(Alk^2)_q-C(O)-NR^5R^6$ in which Alk^2 and q are as described above, and R^5 and R^6 are each independently represented by hydrogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_{12})$alkyl, $(C_6\text{-}C_{10})$aryl, or $(C_6\text{-}C_{10})$aryl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, in which the alkyl and aryl moieties may be optionally substituted,

vi. $-(CH_2)-(Alk^2)_q-Y-R^7$, in which Alk^2 and q are as defined above, Y is O or S, and R^7 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_{12})$alkyl, $(C_6\text{-}C_{10})$aryl, or $(C_6\text{-}C_{10})$aryl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, in which the alkyl and aryl moieties may be optionally substituted,

vii heteroaryl, optionally substituted,

viii.heteroaryl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, in which the heteroaryl and alkyl moieties may each be optionally substituted,

~~xv.iii. heterocyclic, optionally substituted,~~

~~x.heterocyclic(C_1-C_6)alkyl, in which the alkyl~~

~~and heterocyclic moieties may each be substituted, or,~~

h) ~~for those compounds in which Y is N, X^2 and X^3, along with the adjacent nitrogen atom, may form a heterocyclic ring, which may optionally be substituted,~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or solvate, thereof.

Claim 2 (Original): A compound according to claim 1 in which one of R^1 or R^2 is hydrogen and the other of R^1 or R^2 is selected from the group consisting of isobutyl, propyl, n-butyl, isopropyl, and ethyl.

Claim 3 (Previously amended): A compound according to claim 2 in which n is 0.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 3 in which X^1 is trifluoromethyl and is located at the 3-position of the phenyl ring.

Claim 5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 4 in which X^2 is hydrogen.

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A compound according to ~~anyone of~~ claim 18 in which X^1 is represented by halogen or haloalkyl.

Claim 10-12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Previously amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 in admixture with 1, or more, pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

Claim 14 (Previously amended): A topical pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound according to claim 1 in admixture with 1, or more, pharmaceutically acceptable excipients suitable for dermal application.

Claim 15 (Previously amended): A kit comprising a compound according to claim 1 packaged for retail distribution, which advises a consumer how to utilize the compound to alleviate a condition selected from the group consisting of acne, alopecia, and oily skin.

Claim 16. (New): A compound according to claim 1 in which X^1 is represented by CF_3 and is located at the 3-position of the phenyl ring, R^1 is isobutyl or propyl, R^2 is hydrogen, and n is 0.

Claim 17. (New): A compound according to claim 1 in which X^1 is represented by CF_3 and is located at the 3-position of the phenyl ring, R^1 is isobutyl, R^2 is hydrogen, n is 0, and X^2 is represented by hydrogen.

Claim 18 (New): A compound according to claim 1 in which X^1 is represented by CF_3 and is located at the 3-position of the phenyl ring, R^1 is isobutyl or propyl, R^2 is hydrogen, n is 0, X^2 is represented by hydrogen and X^3 is benzyl or phenethyl in which the phenyl ring is optionally substituted with at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of methoxy, ethoxy, hydroxy, and methyl.

Claim 19 (New): A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

a) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid benzylamide,
b) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid benzylamide,

c) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid [2-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
d) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid (2-phenoxy-ethyl)-amide,
e) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid -3-methoxy-benzylamide,
f) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid [2-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]amide,
g) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-2-methoxy-benzylamide,
h) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-2-ethoxy-benzylamide,
i) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-3-methyl-benzylamide, and,
j) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-2-methyl-benzylamide.

Claim 20 (New): A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

a) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-4-methoxy-benzylamide,
b) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-3-methoxy-benzylamide,
c) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-2-methoxy-benzylamide,
d) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-2-ethoxy-benzylamide,
e) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-3-methyl-benzylamide,
f) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-2-methyl-benzylamide,
g) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-2,4-dimethyl-benzylamide,
h) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-4-methoxy-benzylamide,
i) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-(2-p-tolyl-ethyl)-amide, and,
j) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-[2-(2-methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide.

Claim 21 (New): A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

a) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-(2-m-tolyl-ethyl)-amide,
b) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-(2-p-tolyl-ethyl)-amide,
c) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-[2-(2-methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
d) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-(2-m-tolyl-ethyl)-amide,
e) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-(2-phenoxy-propyl)-amide,
f) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-(2-phenoxy-ethyl)-amide,
g) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-[2-(3-methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
h) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-[2-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
i) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid benzyl-isopropyl-amide,
j) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-[2-(3-methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
k) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-[2-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
l) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid benzyl-isopropyl-amide,
m) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid [1-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
n) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid 4-isopropyl-benzylamide,
o) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-3-methoxy-benzylamide, and,
p) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-4-methoxy-benzylamide.

Claim 22 (New): A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

a) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-3,4-dihydroxy-benzylamide,
b) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid (naphthalene-1-yl-methyl)-amide,
c) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-hexanoic acid benzylamide,
d) N-benzyl-2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-3-methyl-butyramide,
e) (R)- 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid benzylamide,
f) (R)-2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid benzylamide,
g) (R)-2-(cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid 2-methyl-benzylamide,
h) 2-(3-chloro-4-cyano-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid benzylamide, and,
i) 2-(3-chloro-4-cyano-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid [2-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide.

Claim 23 (New): A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

a) (S)-2-(3-chloro-4-cyano-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid benzylamide,
b) (S)-2-(3-chloro-4-cyano-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid [2-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)ethyl]amide,
c) (S)-2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid-3-methyl-benzylamide,
d) (S)-2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-[2-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
e) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid-[1-(methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
f) (R-) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid [2-4-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,
g) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-penanoic acid (1-phenyl-ethyl)-amide,

h) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-penanoic acid[1-(4-methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,

i) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid [1-(4-hydroxy phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,

j) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid [1-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,

k) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid [1-(4-hydroxy-[phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,

l) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid [1-hydroxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide,

m) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-4-methyl-pentanoic acid (1-phenyl-ethyl)-amide, and,

n) 2-(4-cyano-3-trifluoromethyl-phenoxy)-pentanoic acid [1-(methoxy-phenyl)-ethyl]-amide.